MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: We have published a notification in the Gazette. All the officers who move about do propoganda work and tell the agriculturists about the existence of the fruit farm, the fruit trees available there and the method of cultivating fruit trees. All these items of information are made available to the people.

MR. KOMILEZHATHU SANKARAN: May I know whether any advertisement is made outside the State?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Not much, because there is no necessity. At present we are not able to meet the demand in Travancore itself.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I know the total cost incurred by Government on the fruit farm up-to-date?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Including the capital expenditure it will be about Rs. 10,000.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI (*Quilon cum Karunagapalli*): എന്തെല്ലാം തരത്തിലുള്ള പഴങ്ങളാണ് അവിടെ കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നത്?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: പലതും കൃഷിചെയ്യുന്നുണ്ട്. ഓർമ്മയുള്ളതൊക്കെ പറയാം. മാവ് (നാടൻ തരം), പലതരംപേര, മുന്തിരിങ്ങാ, ആറൻജ്, ലയിം, സപ്പോഡില, ഫിഗ് ഇങ്ങനെ പലതുമാണ്.

MR. A. N. VISVANATHA PILLAI: ഇവിടെ ഇപ്പോൾഇല്ലാത്ത പുരിയപഴമുള്ള ചെടികൾ കൃഷിചെയ്യണമെന്ന് വിചാരിക്കുന്നുണ്ടോ?

MR. K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: അങ്ങിനെയുള്ളവയിൽ പരിശോധിച്ചുനോക്കി കൊള്ളാമെന്നുള്ളവയെ, പണമുള്ളതുപോലെ, കൃഷിചെയ്യണം.

Length of the Railway in the State.

25. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the total length of the South Indian Railway; and

(*b*) the length of the Railway running through the Travancore State;

MR K. GEORGE: (*a*) The member is referred to Time Tables and Guides published by the Company.

(*b*) The length of the State Section is 97·97 miles.

Employees in the South Indian Railway.

26. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) how many employees there are in the various services of the South Indian Railway;

(*b*) how many of them are Travancoreans and what their pay is?

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MR. K. GEORGE: (*a*) and (*b*) Government have no information.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE: As regards part (*a*), that is, the total number of employees in the South Indian Railway, it does not seem to be a proper enquiry to make of the Company. They may say that we are not concerned with it.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry whether it is in proportion to the amount that we have invested?

MR. K. GEORGE: Government can enquire about the total number of employees in Travancore, not in the whole Railway.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: May I know whether proper representation is given to Travancore in proportion to the amount spent by us?

MR. K. GEORGE: The amount spent and the number of employees need not necessarily have any relation?

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: What is the total expenditure that Travancore meets for the pay of the railway employees in the Travancore line?

MR. K. GEORGE: The question is based on a misunderstanding. The Travancore Government pays a portion of the net loss of the railway. That net loss is worked out by deducting from the gross receipts the working expenses and interest charges. The working expenses are calculated on a proportionate basis, not with reference to the actual working expenses of the line from Shencotta to Trivandrum, but on the proportion the whole working expenses of the entire line bear to the gross receipts of those lines. So, we have nothing to do with the exact working expenses of the line.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know, Sir, whether the gain or loss, so far as Travancore is concerned, on the line depends upon how the line is worked elsewhere outside Travancore and how it is staffed outside Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE: Yes, it depends upon the total working cost of the line.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Is there any agreement between the S. I. R. Company and the Government as to how this loss is to be met?

MR. K. GEORGE: We have no agreement with the S. I. R. Company. There is an agreement between the Secretary of State and the Government in regard to all these matters.

Mr. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: With reference to the expenses on the railway line between Quilon and Trivandrum, is there any agreement between the S I. R. Company and this Government?

MR. K. GEORGE: There is an agreement between the Secretary of State and this Government.

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MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI: May I know whether the furniture ordered for use in stations in the Travancore territory could be used outside Travancore?

PRESIDENT: That question does not arise.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR (*Vaikam cum Shertallai*): May I know the number of employees in the Travancore Section of the S. I. R.?

MR. K. GEORGE: Government have no information.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: May I know the amount of the highest salary that is paid to a Travancorean in the Travancore Section of the S. I. R.?

MR. K. GEORGE: I have no information.

MR. KATTIYATTU SIVARAMA PANICKAR: Will the Government be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE: Government have no objection to do so.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR: May I know whether, according to the terms of the agreement between the Secretary of State and the State, there is any possibility of acquiring the whole concern and working it as a State railway?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of this question.

Audit of accounts of the South Indian Railway.

27. MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have investigated into the working of the South Indian Railway; and

(*b*) whether they have audited the Railway accounts at any time, if so, when, and the result of such audit and investigation; and if there is any report, whether they will lay the same on the table for the information of the Council?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Financial Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No.

(*b*) No. The accounts of the Company are audited by an auditor appointed by the Secretary of State and such audited accounts are accepted by Government.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to request the British Government to permit our auditors to audit the accounts?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Government will be in a position to consider that question only in the year 1945.

MR. M. N. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Is it a fact, Sir, that in all the railway stations in the State the booking clerks or the station masters who sell tickets refuse to receive the Travancore one cash coin?

MR. R. NILAKANTA PILLAI: Government have no information.

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